

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Middlesex County, NJ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

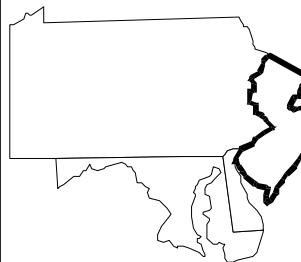
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Middlesex County for a Brownfields Pilot. The County is located in central New Jersey, and comprises 25 urban, suburban, and small-town municipalities. Historically, the region has been a center for industry and commerce due to its close proximity to major East Coast markets and waterways. However, Middlesex County has seen a significant decline in economic activity in the last 30 years, particularly in the metal processing and petrochemical industries. The closing of these industries has left behind numerous vacant and potentially contaminated properties, as well as contaminated sediment along stretches of the Arthur Kill waterway, Raritan Bay, and Raritan River.

The Middlesex County Planning Board determined in 1995 that the abandoned and underused properties along these waterways had significant redevelopment potential, yet were hampered by perceived contamination. The County plans to focus Pilot activities on the seven municipalities that lie along these waterways. The impact of brownfields on these communities is dramatic. More than 50% (397 out of 775) of all known contaminated sites in the County are in the seven municipalities targeted for this Pilot. Planned redevelopment efforts include commercial, light industrial, and a mixture of residential and/or recreational development.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Middlesex County,
New Jersey*

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: Middlesex County is focusing its redevelopment efforts on seven municipalities along the Arthur Kill waterway, Raritan Bay, and Raritan River.

Contacts:

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Improvement Authority
(609) 655-1408

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 2
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority initiated a Waterfront Reclamation Project (WRP) to address brownfields issues in the targeted communities. The primary objectives of WRP are to clean up hazardous sites, redevelop underused properties, create jobs and economic opportunities in the area, increase tax revenues, and create increased public access to the waterfront. To help facilitate this project, the Pilot plans to identify, assess, and inventory brownfields sites; create a cleanup and redevelopment plan for WRP use; and foster community involvement through outreach and communication activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying, inventorying, and prioritizing potential sites for cleanup and redevelopment;
- Conducting environmental assessments on at least three to five sites with the highest potential for redevelopment, and developing appropriate cleanup plans for those sites, including the use of innovative cleanup technologies;
- Integrating the assessment results into an overall waterfront redevelopment program; and
- Conducting community outreach activities and re-convening a task force comprising representatives of the seven municipalities to serve as an advisory body.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.